

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An elastic fiber with a core/sheath construction, the fiber comprising at least two polymers, the core comprising a thermoplastic elastomer and the sheath comprising a homogeneously branched, ethylene polymer having a gel content of less than 30 wt %.
2. The fiber of Claim 1 in which the sheath polymer has a lower melting point than the core polymer.
3. A fiber blend comprising (A) an elastic fiber with a core/sheath construction, the elastic fiber comprising at least two polymers, the core comprising a thermoplastic elastomer and the sheath comprising a homogeneously branched, ethylene polymer, the sheath polymer having a gel content of less than 30 wt %, and (B) at least one inelastic fiber.
4. The fiber blend of Claim 3 in which the inelastic fiber is at least one of a cellulosic fiber, wool, silk and a silicate fiber.
5. The fiber blend of Claim 3 in which the fiber of (A) is melt bonded to the fiber of (B).
6. A fabricated article comprising the fiber blend of Claim 3.
7. A method of separating cellulosic fibers from one another, the method comprising treating the cellulosic fibers with a quarternary ammonium compound and then subjecting the treated fibers to agitation.
8. A method of separating elastic fibers from one another, the method comprising subjecting the elastic fibers to agitation in an aqueous media comprising a surfactant.
9. A method of separating elastic fibers from one another, the method comprising subjecting the elastic fibers to high intensity air mixing.